

Inside this issue:

Message from the Mayor	1
District Records Third Straight Year with No Latino Gang-Related Homicide	2
Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs Awards \$230,000 in Grants to Improve Access to City Services	2
DC Veterans Honored	3
Shop Tax Free in DC this Holiday Season from November 24 to December 3	3
Maxine B. Baker Day in the District	3
District Activities	4
Community News	4
Upcoming Events	4

Message from the Mayor

Congratulations to Adrian Fenty for his election victory. His convincing win in the primary and again in the general election underscores his mandate and offers him a great opportunity to advance an ambitious agenda.

But now the real work begins. Our city faces challenges on many fronts and the decisions we make in coming years will define the District for years to come.

When I was elected eight years ago, our city was at a crossroads. We were nearly bankrupt, decisions were made by an appointed Control Board and the government was barely able to provide basic services to our residents and visitors. We had hit rock bottom and our reputation both locally and nationally was poor. We were failing our citizens on every level.

Today the picture is very different. Our bond rating is strong, all of the basic functions of government work efficiently and we have created a boom in housing, retail and commercial construction that is powering our economy and allowing us to make steady investments in our services and people.

Look around our city. From new stores like Target, Home Depot, Best Buy and H&M to hundreds of new condos along Massachusetts Avenue, H Street and the waterfront, change is in the air. We're building a ballpark, guiding new development in Southeast and Southwest and opening new recreation centers and parks across the city. At the same time, the Ellen Wilson, Capital Gateway and Henson Ridge projects in Wards 6, 7 and 8 and elsewhere show that we are making unmatched investments in affordable housing. We've built thousands of affordable housing units in recent years; with projects like Arthur Capper each unit is replaced one-for-one with another affordable home.

But we all know that we need to do much more.

I am heartened by Mayor-elect Fenty's plan to assume responsibility for our public schools. The lack of progress in the quality and management of our schools is one of the biggest challenges we face. Until and unless we can reverse the decline in our public schools, our children will always be at a disadvantage.

I also believe that we need to do even more to protect our middle class. Like every city in America, our middle class is stressed. Our city must ensure that we do not lose those families; they are a part of our fabric and the District will be a lesser place without them.

Finally, it's my hope that Mayor-elect Fenty continues to focus on making our government more responsive to our neediest residents. Beyond that, we can make all our agencies better and I look forward to continued progress.

It's time to roll up our sleeves. I urge people in the District to stand behind Mayor-elect Fenty as he embarks on this difficult path. Our partners in this process must all come together; the DC Council under Vince Gray, the School Board and Superintendent Janey, our energized business partners and dedicated non-profits and community advocates and especially the residents who make our city great. Let's turn the spirit of optimism and energy that marked the campaign into a collective effort that makes Washington DC even better. Let's get to work.



AGENCY WEBSITES

Department of Human Services

Office of Tax and Revenue

Department of Parks and Recreation

Department of Employment Services

Metropolitan Police Department

Office of Boards and Commissions

Commission on the Arts and Humanities

LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES

Hands on DC

DC Convention and Tourism

DC Public Library

District Records Third Straight Year with No Latino Gang-Related Homicide

Last week, I announced that our comprehensive approach to reducing Latino gang violence in the Columbia Heights/Shaw neighborhoods has dramatically reduced Latino gang-related violence in DC and led to a drop in the number of young people who are becoming gang members. I also announced that there has not been a Latino gang-related homicide in the District of Columbia since October 9, 2003.

The Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs (OLA) commissioned a report on this topic that used quantitative and qualitative research, including analysis of crime rate data, focus groups and interviews with more than 40 young people and adults, to independently evaluate the effectiveness of the Gang Intervention Partnership (GIP) in its first three years of operation, from 1999 through 2003.

The Center for Youth Policy Research, an independent, non-profit empirical research and policy analysis organization, conducted the evaluation and authored the report, *"Gang Intervention Partnership: Evaluation and Recommendations Regarding a Program to Reduce Criminal Activity of Latino Gangs in the District of Columbia."*

"The report demonstrates clearly that when there is close coordination and collaboration between law enforcement, elected officials, the schools and community partners, we can make great strides in battling youth violence," said Councilmember Jim Graham. "The report provides policymakers, community leaders and law enforcement with a fuller understanding of GIP's success, why it has worked, and how we can build and strengthen similar efforts in the future. While there is lots more work to be done, we should shine a spotlight on - and learn from - the successful efforts of the Gang Intervention Partnership."

GIP was established by Metropolitan Police Chief Charles Ramsey in August 2003, with support from Councilmember Graham, and in partnership with community organizations, including the Latin American Youth Center and the Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Support Collaborative.

The report's fundamental conclusion is clear: the Gang Intervention Partnership is working. It's doing exactly what it was created to do – reduce Latino gang violence. As a result of GIP, we know more about Latino gangs in DC, our community partners are providing more recreational and educational alternatives to gangs, and as a community, we have gotten better at preventing gang violence from occurring. We plan to replicate this multi-agency approach in other parts of the city, and for other jurisdictions working to reduce gang-related violence, the Gang Intervention Partnership offers a roadmap for putting together a highly effective response.

In addition to reducing violence, the report finds that GIP has achieved each of its other four major goals – decreasing gang membership; reducing the number of gang-related suspensions in targeted schools; increasing the involvement of at-risk youth in recreational and other productive activities; and building community capacity and consciousness about gangs.

GIP focused not just on reducing violent behavior, but on addressing the myriad social and economic issues, such as family situation, employment status, school attendance, peer relationships, and limited recreational opportunities, which can create environments that lead to violence among young people. GIP's holistic approach marries prevention and intervention initiatives with intelligence gathering and enforcement efforts, providing a new model for reducing gang violence.

Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs Awards \$230,000 in Grants to Improve Access to City Services

The District's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) has awarded \$230,000 in community grants to provide services to the city's Asian and Pacific Islander residents, particularly linguistically isolated residents. The community grants are the first grants given by OAPIA in its 19-year history as an agency under the jurisdiction of the Executive Office of the Mayor.

With the help of Councilmember Vincent Orange, community leaders and the members of the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, this office has for the first time been able to directly fund CBOs. It's a milestone for this office and the District's API community.

Seven community-based organizations (CBOs) received the community grants ranging from \$22,000 - \$45,000 in funding. The CBOs that received awards are:

- Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
- Asian American Leadership Empowerment and Development
- Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project
- Chinatown Service Center
- Greater Washington Urban League – Asian Senior Center
- Newcomers Community Service Center
- Vietnamese American Community Service Center

Some of the services that will be provided by the seven CBOs include: job preparedness and training to increase and improve workforce development skills, education services that complement public school curriculum, health-related services that improve health status or enable and/or enhance access, and legal services.

These community grants are extremely important in linking vital social services to our Asian and Pacific Islander residents. They provide much-needed funding to our community-based organizations whose services complement those offered by the city.



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding
Alerts

DC Veterans Honored

On November 15, 2006, I called upon the residents of this great city to join me in honoring District residents and DC government military veterans. Our District of Columbia Government military veterans have served our country and our District of Columbia residents, with unmatched loyalty, patriotism and resolve. I proclaimed November 15, 2006, as "Salute to Our District of Columbia Government Military Veterans Day" in Washington, DC, in honor of our own American heroes whose actions promulgate the freedoms we enjoy and whose legacy is forever secured.

In 1938, Congress designated November 11 as Armistice Day and in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first Veterans Day proclamation to honor our veterans. It is appropriate to recognize those individuals, who have served and who are currently serving, and to invite civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, businesses, unions, and the media to support this national observance. Veterans Day is set aside to salute our Nation's military veterans, and to say thank you to the nearly 40,000 military veterans who call the District of Columbia their home. On November 11, 2006, the residents of the District of Columbia paused to pay homage to our Nation's military veterans, the men and women who have dedicated their time and energy to defend our country – the United States of America.

Shop Tax Free in DC this Holiday Season from November 24 to December 3

In time for the holiday season, the District of Columbia will offer its latest Sales Tax Holiday from 12:01 a.m. Friday, November 24 through midnight Sunday, December 3. The Sales Tax Holiday provides shoppers an exemption from DC's 5.75 percent sales tax on each piece of clothing, accessory item or pair of shoes, costing \$100 or less. Sales tax exemption from school supplies is not included.

The sales tax exemption applies to each eligible item regardless of how many items are sold on the same bill to a customer. It also applies to layaway sales if the retailer and customer enter into a layaway agreement or the customer makes the final payment on the layaway order during the exemption period.

Retailers filing monthly or annual sales and use tax returns should enter the total amount of tax exempted due to the Sales Tax Holiday, along with any other exempt taxes, on line 11 of the sales tax portion of their return. Retailers are also encouraged to clearly state in their records the type of item sold and the sales price of tax-exempt merchandise sold during the Sales Tax Holiday period.

For more information about the Sales Tax Holiday, visit the Office of Tax and Revenue's (OTR) Web site at taxpayerservicecenter.com and select "Sales Tax Holiday" or call OTR's Customer Service Center at (202) 727-4TAX (4829).

Maxine B. Baker Day in the District

Last Sunday, I proclaimed November 19, 2006, "Maxine B. Baker Day" in Washington, DC, in recognition of her dedication and commitment to our most precious resources – our children.

I was pleased to join my mother Mrs. Virginia Hayes Williams and American Mother, Inc® at the interfaith service honoring Maxine Baker, President and CEO, Freddie Mac Foundation, as the Mother of the Year. This was the annual interfaith church service honoring the DC Metropolitan Area Mother of the Year, hosted by Reverend Dr. Delores Carpenter at the Michigan Park Christian Church, in northeast Washington.

Baker was selected to receive the award for all the good she does in the community and country including her philanthropic leadership in helping 1.7 million children; founding the Congressional Coalition Adoption Institute, which received the "Angels in Adoption" award; and her sponsorship of "Wednesday's Child." She was educated in the DC Public School system and understands the value of a good start for youth of this city.

Baker has displayed a deep commitment to this city and has overseen the donation of nearly \$284 million in 15 years to non-profit organizations in order to strengthen children, families and communities.

American Mother, Inc® is an 80-year-old national organization founded by Sara Delano Roosevelt while her son, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was President of the United States. The organization supports the moral and spiritual foundation of the family and the home.



District Activities



Mayor Williams distributed free Thanksgiving baskets with turkeys and other traditional holiday food to 300 needy families in the District.



Mayor Williams delivered remarks at the 18th Annual Fannie Mae Foundation Help the Homeless Walkathon on November 18.



Mayor Williams participated in a symposium on changes that are needed to the National Mall.



Mayor Williams was honored to speak at the groundbreaking of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial on the Mall. This is the first National Mall tribute to an African-American.

Community News

- [Mayor Williams Issues Statement on Education Committee Vote](#)
- [Mayor Williams Issues Statement on Federal Land Transfers](#)
- [City Honors Excellence in Arts: Submit Your Nominations for Mayor's Arts Awards](#)

Upcoming Events

[View All News Releases](#)

11/24 - 12/3	Sales Tax Holiday For more information, visit taxpayerservicecenter.com and select "Sales Tax Holiday" or call OTR's Customer Service Center at 202-727-4TAX (4829)
11/28	Mayor's LGBT Advisory Committee meeting 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Wilson Building, Rm.#201
11/29	Washington, DC SBDC and DC Office of Contracting and Procurement roundtable on procurement 3 pm - 5 pm 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 1107 South For more information, call Evelyn Ross, 202-724-4009
12/1	"Steamfitters" Workshop 8:30 am - 12 pm DOES- Naylor Road One-Stop Career Center 2626 Naylor Road, SE
12/5	Metropolitan Police Department 6th Annual Awards Ceremony 7 pm DAR Constitution Hall

